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### REMARKS

Claims 19-33 remain in this application. Claims 1-18 have been canceled. Claims 19-33 have been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and review of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner objected to the abstract "because it exceeds 150 words and is found on two pages." See page 2 of the Office Action. This informality has been corrected by the current amended abstract. Accordingly, the objection to the abstract should be withdrawn.

Before addressing the merits of the rejections based on prior art, a brief description of the present application is provided. The present application is directed toward a method and apparatus for grouping several standard Human Interface Devices (HIDs) in a network (such as an Ethernet network, a LAN and/or a WAN). Computers in the network can be categorized as two types: servers (or computational service providers) and clients. In addition, a client can be further understood to be a thin client (in contrast with a thick client or a full-featured work station). A thin client (or an HID) is a small, stateless, "plug and work" desktop computer whose main function is to process all input and output for the user and to manage communication with at least one server. All other computational tasks or services for the user are performed on the server, which is shared amongst a community of HIDs.

Because the HIDs are stateless, a user's information can be instantly sent to any HID within the network. That is, a user can be in the middle of a user session (e.g., typing an email message) on one HID, move to another HID and then resume the user session exactly where the user left off. Similarly, if an HID fails, a user can move from the failed HID to another HID without losing any work.

In the present invention, several HIDs are selected as a group to simulate a multi-head display unit. The simulated multi-head display unit is used to display a large computing environment that normally cannot be displayed on a single HID. That is, the

large computing environment (or user session) is divided into various parts, each of which is displayed on a separate HID of the group of HIDs so that the entire computing environment can be displayed.

In one embodiment of the present invention, an HID in the selected group of the HIDs is identified as a "primary" display terminal (or a primary HID). All other HIDs within the selected group are identified as "secondary" display terminals (or secondary HIDs). When an event occurs that is associated with one of the secondary HIDs connecting to a first server, a determination is made as to whether the primary HID associated with the secondary HID is displaying a first part of an associated active session (or computing environment). If the primary HID is displaying the first part of the associated active session, a second server for providing the associated active session is identified. The first server connected to the secondary HID is also identified. The first and second servers are then matched to determine if they are the same server. If the first and second servers are the same server, an indicator is configured to augment the associated active session to indicate that the secondary HID does not have to be redirected (because the first server is the second server). If the first and second servers are not the same server, the secondary HID is directed to disconnect from the first server and to connect with the second server so that the secondary HID can display a second part of the associated active session provided by the second server.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being anticipated by Garfinkel. Claims 2-4, 8-10, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Garfinkel and Jawahar. In addition, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. More particularly, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 for containing the phrase "said second client." See page 3 of the Office Action. Although Applicants believe that Claim 1 is definite (because the claim does not actually recite "said second client" but rather "said secondary device"), the Applicants nevertheless cancel this claim in order to expedite allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are

now moot.

Claims 18-33 have been added to clarify certain features of the subject matter being claimed. The limitations in these new claims are not disclosed or suggested in either Garfinkel or Jawahar (whether alone or in combination).

Garfinkel is directed to a method and apparatus for sharing a display signal from a local computer display to at least one remote computer display. Specifically, Garfinkel discloses a first display server 12 connected to a first display 14 and a second display server 22 connected to a second display 24. A display server extension 34 is used to connect the first dedicated display server 12 to the second dedicated display server 22 so that a display signal on the first display 14 can be shared with the second display 24. It should be appreciated that, unlike Garfinkel, the present invention does not share a display signal on a first display terminal (a primary HID) with a second display terminal (a secondary HID) by connecting a first dedicated server to a second dedicated server. In fact, by its teaching of using a display server extension 34 to connect a first dedicated display server 12 to a second dedicated display server 22, Garfinkel actually teaches away from the HID redirection approach of the present invention (i.e., redirecting the connection of the secondary HID from the first server to the second server).

Jawahar is directed to a system and method for allowing an agent client to display the same information accessed by a customer client so that the agent client can assist the customer client with a specific help request from the customer client. The system and method disclosed in Jawahar discloses the use of a separate connecting server 500 for hosting a connection of the customer client 520 with the agent client 530. After connecting the customer client 520 with the agent client 530, the connecting server 500 then connects these two clients with a resource server 510 requested by the customer client so that the same information provided by the resource server 510 and displayed on the customer client 520 can also be displayed on the agent client 530. By contrast, it should be appreciated that the present invention does not display the same information on a first display terminal (a primary HID) and a second display terminal (a

secondary HID); rather, the present invention displays a part of a larger computing environment on the first display terminal and another part of the larger computing environment on the second display terminal so that the entire computing environment can be shown to a user.

Furthermore, it should be noted that Jawahar discloses nothing more than a conventional web server. The service model of a thin client session server of the present invention and a web server are completely different. Web services and connections using a typical web server are short, transaction-oriented interactions, with no updating of state on the server. By contrast, thin client sessions persist over a long time, and the session server contains the entire state of the user's session. In the present invention, the HID (or thin client) is a stateless device having no state stored in the client. For example, unlike the service mode proposed in Jawahar, a user on a client of the present invention can power-off the client, and the user can reconnect to the session (on the same or another client) and pick up exactly where the user left off, down to the position of the cursor on the screen.

The support for the new claims can be at least found in the original claims, at the specification on pages 2-3, 5-7, and 10-19, as well as in Figures 4-10. More specifically, the support for independent Claim 19 can be found in original Claims 1-3, on pages 2-3 and 5-6, and in Figures 4-10. The dependent claims can be found in original Claims 4-6, 9-18, and 13-18, as well as at the above-cited specification pages and figures.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 19-33 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. If it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

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While the Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



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